

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 M-02 SCCT-02 SY-04

FBIE-00 JUSE-00 AID-20 SCA-01 PM-07 H-03 L-03 NSC-07

PA-04 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 NEA-14 OMB-01 TRSE-00

DRC-01 /165 W

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R 211453Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0407

INFO FAA WASHDC

FAA BRUSSELS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE AMEMBASSY PARIS 15871

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, FR

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: EXTORTION ATTEMPT ON PANAM AND TWA

REF: PARIS 15157

1. LATEST DEVELOPMENT IN EXTORTION ATTEMPT AGAINST PANAM AND TWA WAS RECEIPT BY BOTH CARRIERS ON JUNE 24 OF IDENTICAL LETTERS DATED JUNE 21 CONTAINING INSTRUCTIONS FOR RENEWED ATTEMPT TO ARRANGE FOR PAYOFF. WRITER EXPLAINED FAILURE TO GO THROUGH WITH PLANNED PAYOFF ON CLERMONT-FERRAND TRAIN (REFTEL) BECAUSE OF EVIDENT PRESENCE OF FRENCH POLICE. LETTER INSTRUCTED THAT NEW AD BE INSERTED IN WANT AD SECTION OF LE FIGARO'S JUNE 26 ISSUE WITH CODE NUMBERS INDICATING MANNER IN WHICH CARRIERS INTEND COOPERATE. AD PUBLISHED IN LE FIGARO JUNE 26 GAVE CODE NUMBERS INDICATING CARRIERS WERE PREPARED TO PAY WITHOUT ALERTING

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POLICE AND WERE ALSO PREPARED TO RECEIVE "LEADERS"

AFTER DELIVERY OF SUM.

2. IN THIS LETTER, FOR THE FIRST TIME, ARE A NUMBER OF REFERENCES SPRINKLED THROUGHOUT TEXT INTENDED SUGGEST "ORGANIZATION" BEHIND EXTORTION ATTEMPT IS PALESTINIAN, I.E., POLICE ON TRAIN WOULD HAVE SPOTTED "ARAB-TYPE FACES OF OUR COMRADES," "ALLAH IS WITH US," "ATTACKS AGAINST OUR PEOPLE BY YOUR ISRAELI FRIENDS," AND "IT WILL BE PREFERABLE FOR THE FRENCH POLICE (UNDER OUR ORDERS) TO INFORM PEOPLE THAT THE USA WAS OBLIGED TO LEND MONEY TO A PALESTINIAN ORGANIZATION." HOWEVER, APART FROM THESE FEW PHRASES USED IN PASSING, LETTER DOES NOT CONTAIN PROPAGANDISTIC BOMBAST FOR PALESTINIAN CAUSE ONE MIGHT EXPECT FROM GENUINE PALESTINIAN TERRORISTS. INDEED, LETTER IS LENGTHY, RAMBLING AND REPETITIVE; CONTAINS MUCH BOASTING OVER "INFALLIBILITY" OF EXTORTION PLAN; AND CONTAINS SARCASTIC ASIDES ABOUT THE POOR POLICEMENSWELTERING IN THE SUN, ETC. LETTERS ARE WRITTEN IN CORRECT IF COLLOQUIAL FRENCH BUT WITH NUMEROUS MISSPELLINGS.

3. LEGATT REMAINS IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH FRENCH POLICE, WITH WHOM PANAM AND TWA CONTINUE TO COOPERATE CLOSELY. TWA REP BASED IN LONDON HAVING REGIONAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR SECURITY MATTERS MET EARLIER THIS WEEK WITH RSO AND RCAA TO DISCUSS CASE. HE INFORMED US THAT WHILE TWA SUSPECTS THAT EXTORTION THREAT IS WORK OF A CRACKPOT, TWA IS TAKING NO CHANCES AND HAD ASKED GOF FOR INCREASED PROTECTION. PANAM HAS DONE LIKEWISE AND FRENCH AIRPORT POLICE GUARD HAS ACCORDINGLY BEEN REINFORCED FOR AIRCRAFT OF BOTH CARRIERS.

4. COPY OF JUNE 21 LETTER WITH TWA'S TRANSLATION POUCHED TO ADDRESSEES THIS TELEGRAM.
STONE

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Message Attributes

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